CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   In a computer server connected to a plurality of electronic devices

via a wireless communication link, a method of commanding said electronic

devices to gather geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

(A) selecting a said electronic device;

(B) commanding said selected electronic device to capture geographically

10 distributed data;

(C) receiving said captured geographically distributed data; and

(D) storing said received geographically distributed data.

2.   A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

15 (E) verifying the identity of selected electronic device.

3.   A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(F) crediting value to an account corresponding to selected electronic

device.

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4.   A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(G) requesting current location of said selected electronic device;

(H) receiving said requested current location from said selected electronic

device;

25   (I) skipping further communication with said selected electronic device if

said received current location is not within a predetermined geographic area.

PALM-3590 US P

5.	In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link, a method of collecting geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving a command to capture said geographically distributed data;

(B) capturing said geographically distributed data; and

5	(C) transmitting said captured geographically distributed data;

6.	A method as described in Claim 5, further comprising the step of:

(D) sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

10	7.	A method as described in Claim 5 wherein said transmitted geographically distributed data is encrypted.

8.	In a computer server connected to a plurality of electronic devices via a wireless communication link, a method of collecting geographically

15	distributed user responses comprising the steps of:

(A) selecting a said electronic device, said selected electronic device having a corresponding user;

(B) commanding said selected electronic device to notify said corresponding user that a said user response is requested;

20	(C) transmitting data to which said corresponding user responds; and

(D) receiving a said user response from said selected electronic device; and

(E) storing said received user response.

25	9.	A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

(F) verifying the identity of selected electronic device.

PALM-3590 US P

10.   A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

(G) crediting value to an account corresponding to selected electronic device.

5   11.   A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

(H) requesting current location of said selected electronic device;

(I) receiving said requested current location from said selected electronic device;

(J) skipping further communication with said selected electronic device if

10   said received current location is not within a predetermined geographic area.

12.   A method as described in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

(K) commanding said selected electronic device to transmit its location when said location is within one of one or more predetermined geographic

15   areas; and

(L) receiving said transmitted location.

13.   In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link, said electronic device corresponding to a user, a method of collecting

20   geographically distributed user responses comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving a command to solicit response from said user;

(B) notifying said user that a said user response is requested;

(C) receiving said user response from said user; and

(D) transmitting said received user response.

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14.   A method as described in Claim 13 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

PALM-3590 US P

15. A method as described in Claim 13 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.

5   16. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

(E) sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

17. A method as described in Claim 13 wherein said transmitted user response is encrypted.

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18. In a computer server connected to a plurality of electronic devices via a wireless communication link, a method for said electronic devices supplying geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving said supplied geographically distributed data from at least

15   one of said electronic devices;

(B) storing said received geographically distributed data;

(C) making said stored geographically distributed data accessible to a predetermined set of editors; and

(D) receiving approval to publish from at least one said editor.

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19. A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

20. A method as described in Claim 18 wherein said electronic device

25   is a wireless telephone.

21. A method as described in Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

PALM-3590 US P

(E) verifying the identity of said at least one editor.

22.   A method as described in Claim 18, further comprising the step of:

(F) crediting value to an account corresponding to said at least one of said

5   electronic devices.

23.   A method as described in Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

(G) crediting value to an account corresponding to said at least one editor.

10   24.   In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link,

said electronic device corresponding to a user, a method for said electronic

devices supplying geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving a command from said user to capture data;

(B) capturing said data;

15   (C) transmitting said captured data; and

(D) sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

25.   A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said electronic device

is a palm-sized computer system.

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26.   A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said electronic device

is a wireless telephone.

27.   A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said transmitted data is

25   encrypted.

PALM-3590 US P

28.　In an electronic device connected to a wireless communication link, said electronic device corresponding to a user, a method for said electronic device to gather geographically distributed data comprising the steps of:

　　(A) receiving a command from said user to enable said gathering of data;

5　　(B) if said enabling is done, determining a plurality of times to start capturing data;

　　(C) if said enabling is done, capturing said data at each said start time, said capturing being done without intervention from the user;

　　(D) if said enabling is done, transmitting said captured data; and

10　　(E) if said enabling is done, sending a verifiable identity of said electronic device.

29.　A method as described in Claim 28 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.

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30.　A method as described in Claim 28 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.